



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FACT SHEET

MAYOR SANDERS THANKS CITY'S 40,000 VOLUNTEERS FOR \$10 MILLION WORTH OF SUPPORT

*More Than 44,000 Individuals Volunteered 527,526 Hours of Time to the City in FY 06;
Services Provided Generated Nearly \$10 Million Worth of Salary Savings*

Mayor Jerry Sanders announced today that San Diego's Citywide Volunteer Program (CVP) generated nearly \$10 million worth of salary savings for Fiscal Year 2006. The announcement coincides with the release of the CVP's Annual Report, which gives an annual overview of the work and savings achieved as a result of the program.

The City of San Diego's volunteers enable departments to provide programs and services that might otherwise not be fiscally possible, continuing to provide "America's Finest Service for America's Finest City," even in difficult fiscal climates.

- In FY 2006, more than 44,000 individuals volunteered 527,526 hours to the City.
- Using the latest national average value of a volunteer hour of \$18.77, the volunteer program generated nearly \$10 million worth of services for the City of San Diego in FY 2006.
- Report information was submitted from more than 40 department volunteer coordinators who collect data from more than 150 sites.
- The Library, Park and Recreation and Police Department utilize the highest number of volunteers.

"The contribution of volunteers cannot be overstated. The Citywide Volunteer Program brings together communities and government, benefiting all San Diegans and visitors to the area. This year, individuals from all walks of life—businesses, families, students, organizations and older adults—donated nearly \$10 million dollars worth of time and talent. On behalf of City staff, and the customers of the City, I give my heartfelt thanks to each of these volunteers.

-- Mayor Jerry Sanders

CITYWIDE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

- The Citywide Volunteer Program (CVP) was created in 1995 to develop Citywide volunteer policies and assist City departments and their Volunteer Managers administer all aspects of volunteer recruitment and retention.
- The FY 2005 budget re-aligned CVP management as a half-time position in the Community Service Center Program, now part of the Customer Services Department.
- Departments also have in-house volunteer coordinators.

EXAMPLES OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Volunteers donate their time and talents in many different ways.

Some volunteer on a continuing basis:

- in libraries and business improvement districts
- as members of the Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP)
- as crisis counselors
- as literacy tutors
- with CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team)
- with Volunteers in Policing programs

Others donate blocks of many hours:

- coaching youth sports teams
- assisting with senior activities, and other recreational programs
- in departments performing data entry, filing and other clerical tasks

Still others volunteer in groups:

- picking up trash from parks and beaches
- removing graffiti from private and public property
- spending hours in monthly meetings as members of City boards, commissions and special task forces.

RECOGNIZING OUR VOLUNTEER PARTNERS

Mayor Sanders is honoring volunteers this year by declaring the month of April “City of San Diego Volunteer Month.”

- In addition, this year the CVP arranged for 5,000 of the city’s volunteers to receive donated passes to Balboa Park Museums. This was made possible through the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership.
- Other volunteer appreciation events this month include a “Hawaiian Nights” dinner for the Therapeutic Recreation Services Volunteers and a luncheon for the Senior Citizen Services volunteers on Harbor Island.